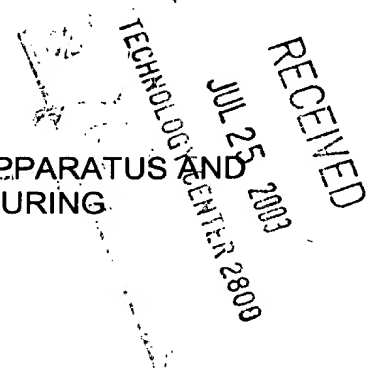




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501.40205X00 C.P.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: R. KOHNO, et al.
Application No.: 09/925,375
Filed: August 10, 2001
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE TESTING APPARATUS AND
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE MANUFACTURING
Art Unit: 2829
Examiner: T. Q. Nguyen



RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 24, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Election of Species Requirement dated April 24, 2003 in the above-identified matter, the period of response for which a shortened statutory period was set for three months in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement. In particular, Applicants respectfully traverse the statement in the election of species requirement that "Currently, no claim is generic." On the contrary, it is respectfully submitted that both independent claim 1 and dependent claim 8 can be read on all three of the listed species A, B, C. As such, it is respectfully requested that claims 1 and 8 be treated as generic, or linking claims, in this application.

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More specifically, in reading claim 1 on Fig. 1, it can be seen that a testing device having probes 5a to be brought into contact with the electrodes of a semiconductor device is constructed to include a plurality of beams, as indicated by

numeral 11, supported by support portions of a substrate 5. In the case of Fig. 1 the beams 11 are supported at both ends of the beam, as discussed, for example, on page 16, line 12 et seq. The structure of Fig. 1 then includes first lines 5b extending to connect the probes 5a to secondary electrodes such as 5c formed on the substrate. This is particularly illustrated in the cross-sectional view of Fig. 2(a) of Fig. 1 in which the first lines can be read on the connecting lines 5b extending from the left of the probe 5a. In addition, second lines such as shown extending from the right side of the probe 5a are provided to connect the beams to the support portion. In Fig. 2(a) of the first embodiment (species A) an overlap area is shown with the letter "u".

Referring to the embodiment of Fig. 3, although this is a single support beam structure, as shown in Fig. 4, the device still comprises the feature set forth in claim 1 of a plurality of beams 11 supported by support portions of the substrate with first lines such as 5b to connect the probes to secondary electrodes 5c, and second lines extending in the other direction from the probe to connect the beams 11 to the support portions of the substrate 5. Similarly, in the species C embodiment shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the same structure with beams 11 and first lines 5b and second lines such as 13 connecting the beams to the support portions are provided. As such, it can be seen from the above discussion, that claim 1 is, indeed, generic to all three species A, B, C. Similarly, claim 8, directed to the pitch between beams, can also be read on all three species. Accordingly, reconsideration and designation of claims 1 and 8 as generic is earnestly solicited.


Notwithstanding the above traversal, Applicants elect species A, directed to Fig. 1, noting that claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 11 and 14 read thereon.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 501.40205X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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